

We claim:

1. A system for scanning a document pursuant to user selected scanning parameters, the user selected parameters controlling a portion of the scanning of the document, the system comprising:

- 5 (a) a scanner selected to scan the document and produce a scanned image file in accordance with the user selected scanning parameters;
- (b) a scanner computer connected to the scanner to receive the scanned image file from the scanner, the scanner computer having a scanner user interface for inputting the user selected scanning parameters;
- 10 (c) a printer selected to print an image corresponding to the scanned image file; and
- (d) a printer computer connected to the printer and the scanner computer, the printer computer having a printer user interface for inputting the user selected scanning parameters.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the printer computer includes a storage device for storing the scanned image file.

3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the printer, the scanner, the scanner computer and the printer computer communicate in a common language.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the scanner and the scanner computer communicate in a first computer language and the scanner computer and the printer computer communicate in a second different computer language.

5. A document scanning system, comprising:

- (a) a scanner having an associated scanner user interface; and
- (b) a printer operably connected to the scanner, the printer having an associated printer user interface;
- 5 the scanner user interface and the printer user interface selected to receive user selected scanning parameters, and to preclude execution of the scanning parameters prior to execution of previously submitted scanning parameters.

6. The system of Claim 5, wherein the scanner user interface and the printer user interface include a lock out indicator.

7. The system of Claim 5 further comprising a scanning computer connected to the scanner, wherein the scanner user interface is located on the scanner computer.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein the scanner user interface includes a touch sensitive display screen.

9. The system of Claim 5 further comprising a printer computer connected to the printer, wherein the printer user interface is located on the printer computer.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the printer interface includes a touch sensitive display screen.

11. A document scanning system, comprising:

(a) a scanner for scanning a document in accordance with user selected scanning parameters;

5 (b) a scanner computer operably connected to the scanner, the scanner computer having a scanner user interface;

(c) a printer; and

(d) a printer computer operably connected to the printer and the scanner, the printer computer having a printer user interface;

10 the scanner, the scanner computer, the printer and the printer computer selected so that the user selected scanning parameters can be submitted to the scanner through the scanner user interface and the printer user interface.

12. The system of Claim 11, further comprising a lockout at one of the scanner user interface and the printer user interface, the lockout selected to preclude the scanner from scanning a document pursuant to and subsequently submitted user selected scanning parameters document prior to completion of
5 a previously submitted user selected scanning parameters.

13. The system of Claim 11, further comprising a queue for user selected scanning parameters submitted during execution of previously submitted user selected scanning parameters.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the queue is a first in – first out sequence.

15. A method of controlling a document scanning system, comprising:
(a) submitting first scanning parameters from one of a scanner user interface and a printer user interface to a scanner for controlling the scanner in scanning a document, and

5 (b) precluding the scanner from executing subsequently submitted scanning parameters from the scanner user interface and the printer user interface prior to the completion of the first scanning parameters.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising locating subsequently submitted scanning parameters in a queue during execution of previously submitted scanning parameters.

17. The method of Claim 15, further comprising retaining subsequently submitted scanning parameters in a queue in a first in-first out relationship.

18. The method of Claim 15, further comprising repeating step (b) until the first scanning parameters are executed.

19. A system for scanning documents pursuant to user selected scanning parameters, comprising:

- (a) a printer;
- (b) a printer computer connected to the printer and having a printer user interface selected to receive user selected scanning parameters;
- 5 (c) a first scanner selected to scan a document in accordance with user selected scanning parameters;
- (d) a first scanner computer connected to the printer computer and the first scanner to receive user selected scanning parameters for the first scanner
- 10 and present the user selected scanning parameters to the first scanner;

(e) a second scanner selected to scan a document in accordance with user selected scanning parameters; and

(f) a second scanner computer connected to the printer computer and the second scanner to receive user selected scanning parameters for the second scanner and present the user selected scanning parameters to the second scanner;

the printer user interface selected to provide user selected scanning parameters for the first scanner and user selected scanning parameters for the second scanner.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the first scanner computer includes a first scanner user interface and the second scanner computer includes a second scanner user interface, the first scanner user interface and the second scanner user interface selected to receive user selected scanning parameters for the first scanner and the second scanner.

21. A method of controlling a scanner, comprising:

(a) submitting user selected scanning parameters to the scanner from a user interface remote from the scanner; and

(b) initiating scanning pursuant to the submitted user selected scanning parameters subsequent to providing a confirmation signal at the scanner.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein submitting the scanning parameters to the scanner includes submitting the user selected scanning parameters from one of a scanner computer and a printer computer.

23. The method of Claim 21, further comprising precluding the execution of a subsequently submitted scanning parameters prior to completion of the initiated scanning.

24. The method of Claim 21, further comprising ordering subsequently submitted user selected scanning parameters in a queue during execution of previously submitted user selected scanning parameters.

25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising subsequently submitting scanning parameters from the queue in a first in-first out sequence.

26. A method of scanning a document, comprising:
- (a) submitting a set of user selected scanning parameters to a scanner from a remote location;
 - (b) scanning the document in accordance with the user selected scanning parameters upon providing a confirmation signal at the scanner;
 - (c) providing a user input signal to complete scanning in accordance with the user selected scanning parameters.

27. A control system for a document scanning system having a scanner, an independent scanner computer, a printer and an independent printer computer, the control system comprising:
- (a) a lockout in one of the printer computer and the scanner computer to preclude execution of subsequently submitted user selected scanning parameters during execution of previously submitted user selected scanning parameters and

28. The control system of Claim 27, further comprising a control program running one of the printer computer and the scanner computer, the control program selected to construct a set of user selected scanning parameters during precluded submission.

29. The control system of Claim 27, wherein the scan setup ahead program is selected to permit modification of the user selected scanning parameters during precluded submission.